PARADE ON AN EMPTY STREET

by Margaret Drury Gane

A forbidding house. A window. A small shy face watching boyish heroics on the road. These are the elements of a gentle and evocative story of young friendship, PARADE ON AN EMPTY STREET.

Keith Gillies reminisces about his childhood after suddenly encountering a long-forgotten friend. Shirley Upshaw was the little girl who in 1939 came to live with his strange and reclusive neighbour, Mrs. Upshaw. Eleven-year-old Keith develops a secret interest in the awkward girl who is not permitted to speak to anyone. Meanwhile, the security of his home-life is shaken by the possibility of his mother leaving with another man. These two threads of the story are told against the backdrop of Keith's life at school (his British teacher, Critchley-Williams), the life on his street (the half-wit and his bulldog) and the growing threat of war.

Margaret Drury Gane is a fresh new talent on the scene, and in this, her first novel, she explores an intriguing relationship between warm and believable characters. PARADE ON AN EMPTY STREET is a graceful and unforgettable story which will touch the heart of every reader.

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